

**Department of Health  
Early Intervention Section**

**EIS Guidelines for In-Person Visits  
September 27, 2021**

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for early intervention (EI) services that aligns with the [State and Local Counties](#), as well as the [Department of Health \(DOH\), Disease Outbreak Control Division \(DOCD\) School Guidance](#).

The goals are to:

- prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- protect the health of children, families, and EI providers.
- partner with families around their children's growth and development.
- support service providers in the delivery of early intervention services.

**HOW WILL EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES BE PROVIDED?**

EI services may be provided in-person, telepractice, or blended (i.e., combination of in-person and telepractice). The service delivery method (e.g., in-person, telepractice, or blended) is based on a discussion with the family on how services will be provided to support the family with meeting the needs of their child, as well as both the family's and providers' following safe practices (i.e., mitigation strategies identified by the DOH DOCD). The family and providers must consider the [community transmission level reported by DOH DOCD](#) (see Table 1 below) and if all Safe Practices (see SAFE PRACTICES Section) can be followed. If all safe practices cannot be met, the family and providers can problem-solve ways to meet safe practice requirements for in-person visits to occur, if appropriate.

The service delivery method discussion with the family must be documented which must include the discussion, decision, and rationale. The discussion about the service delivery method must include but is not limited to the child's progress, family's questions, the supports the family needs to support the child's development, and how safe practices will be implemented. At every Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) meeting, the team which includes the family decides on the service delivery method and documents in the IFSP meeting notes page the team's discussion. At least once a quarter between IFSP meetings or may be sooner, the Care Coordinator will discuss the child's progress and reviews the EI Service Delivery Questionnaire. Child progress is reviewed and a change to the service delivery method may be identified at the Family Support Team (FST) meeting which the family is invited to attend, sessions with the family, or any time the team which includes the family feels a discussion is needed.

Table 1: Hawaii's COVID-19 Community Transmission Levels for Schools

Low	Moderate	Substantial	High
0 – 2.0 avg. cases/100K and 1 – 0.99% percent test positivity	2.1 – 5.0 avg. cases/100K or 1.0 – 2.49% percent test positivity	5.1 – 10.3 avg cases per 100K or 2.5 – 5.05 percent test positivity	10.4+ avg cases per 100K or 5.1%+ percent test positivity
For each community transmission level, EI Services are determined based on a discussion with the family and takes into consideration the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What is the child's progress toward IFSP outcomes?</li><li>● What service delivery method (e.g., in-person, telepractice, blended) will the family need to support the development and needs of their child?</li><li>● How will Safe Practices be implemented?</li></ul>			

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**COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILY**

1. EI service options and guidance may change at any time based on new information from Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State, local County, and Department of Health, Disease Outbreak Control Division.
2. Families will be informed when changes are made to EI services.
3. All families enrolled in EI services will be provided this guideline document.
4. This guideline document will be posted on the Early Intervention Section website.

**WELLNESS QUESTIONS PRIOR TO START OF IN-PERSON VISIT**

24-hours prior to the visit and prior to the provider entering the home for an in-person visit, the family will review the Wellness Questions and inform the provider if there is a “yes” response to any of the questions. Upon arrival to the home, the provider will ask the family if there is a “yes” to any of the Wellness Questions. If there is a “yes” response by the family, the instructions below the Wellness Questions will be followed. All EI providers will complete a self-assessment wellness check prior to any in-person visits with families.

***Wellness Questions:***

1. *Does anyone in your home have any of the following symptoms?*
  - *Cough*
  - *Fever (higher than 100°F) or Chills*
  - *Muscle or body aches*
  - *Shortness of breath*
  - *Difficulty breathing*
  - *Sore throat*
  - *New loss of taste or smell.*
  - *Diarrhea*
  - *Nausea or Vomiting*
  - *Fatigue (tiredness or weakness)*
  - *Congestion/Runny Nose*
  - *Headache*
2. *Are you, your child, or anyone in your home currently under quarantine/isolation due to:*
  - *a positive COVID-19 test result or living with someone with COVID-19*
  - *close contact with someone with COVID-19*
  - *waiting for COVID-19 test result*
  - *required travel quarantine*

*“YES” response to any question will require the family and provider to either reschedule the in-person visit or use telepractice for the rescheduled session. The in-person visit may be rescheduled when **ALL three items are met**:*

- 1) 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or if no symptoms 10 days since last COVID test was taken or if continued close contact, 10 days after person with COVID-19 finishes isolation **AND***
- 2) At least 24 hours has passed since last fever without the use of fever reducing medication **AND***
- 3) No symptoms (e.g., cough, sore throat, diarrhea, etc.).*

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**ILLNESS**

If the family or provider is sick the in-person visit will be cancelled. If the in-person visit is cancelled, the provider and family will work together to either reschedule the in-person visit or use telepractice for the cancelled session. The in-person visit may be rescheduled when **ALL three items are met**:

- 1) At least 10 days have passed since the first day of the symptoms *or if no symptoms since last COVID test was taken* **AND**
- 2) At least 24 hours has passed since last fever without the use of fever reducing medication **AND**
- 3) No symptoms (e.g., cough, sore throat, diarrhea, etc.).

**SAFE PRACTICES**

Vaccinations are important for the health and well-being of everyone. DOH, DOCD states that “the COVID-19 vaccine will help protect you from getting sick with COVID-19 and may also keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.” <https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/what-you-can-do/how-to-prevent-the-spread-of-covid-19/>

**During any in-person visit, the following mitigation strategies are required:**

1. *If anyone in your home is sick or the provider is sick, cancel the in-person visit and discuss a plan for rescheduling the in-person (e.g., use telepractice or schedule another date and time for in-person visit). See ILLNESS Section for more information.*
2. *If a family member or provider appears to be sick or becomes ill during the session, the in-person visit will end. The family and provider will work together to reschedule the visit via in-person or telepractice.*
3. *During an indoor in-person visit, anyone age two years or older who is present during the session must wear a face mask that covers their nose and mouth. CDC indicates that children younger than two years old are listed as an exception as well as anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.*
4. *During an outdoor in-person visit, consider wearing masks during the visit. Provider(s) will continue to wear their mask. EIS encourages the family and if the child is 2 years and older to wear a mask during the outdoor visit because of the amount of time spent together and possibly not being able to maintain physical distance.*
5. *Practice hand hygiene. Wash hands often using soap and water or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. As the family is comfortable, include their child in hand hygiene during the visit.*
6. *Maintain 6 feet apart from others (approximately 2 arm’s length).*
7. *In-person visits will be held in a ventilated area to the extent possible (e.g., home with windows open or outside location) that supports the purpose of the visit.*
8. *Whenever possible, only one provider will be in the home or identified location with the child and family. However, in certain situations a second provider may attend the visit, with family verbal consent. Therefore, there will be no more than two providers in the home or identified location with the child and family.*

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9. No more than two adult family members and the child receiving EI services are allowed during the in-person visit. If necessary, other children may be present.
10. When other children must be present, children two years and older must wear a face mask and maintain 6 feet physical distance throughout the in-person visit. It is preferred that other children are in another room from where the in-person visit is held.
11. Families or providers will clean and disinfect items, as necessary.

**Additional Safe Practices:**

1. *If the child receiving EI services meets the exception stated by CDC that “children younger than two years old are listed as an exception as well as anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance”, the provider may increase their protection by wearing a face mask and face shield or other necessary protection.*
2. *Providers will replace their disposable face mask between visits.*
3. *Providers will clean and disinfect all items taken into a home, including face shields.*
4. *Families or Providers may wear gloves at any time during the in-person visit.*
5. *Providers will discard any gloves worn at the end of each visit.*
6. *Providers will have the appropriate storage bag(s) (e.g., small trash bag) needed to store used items that need to be cleaned and disinfected or discarded.*
7. *Providers will keep a secured record of dates/times in the office and in-person visits.*

**RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES AND PROVIDERS**

- How to Protect Yourself and Others  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>
- Department of Health, Division on Disease Outbreak Control Division, Guidance for Schools  
[Disease Outbreak Control Division | COVID-19 | Guidance for Schools \(hawaii.gov\)](#)
- Department of Health, Guidance Documents  
[Guidance Documents - Hawai'i DOH: Info & Resources for Managing COVID-19 \(hawaiicovid19.com\)](#)
- Guidance for Wearing Masks  
[Your Guide to Masks | CDC](#)
- COVID-19 Protective Handwashing  
[https://hawaiicovid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Fact-Sheet-Hand-Washing\\_031820.pdf](https://hawaiicovid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Fact-Sheet-Hand-Washing_031820.pdf)
- Summary Guidance for COVID-19 Cases and Contacts – 08.17.21 (Please note this document is often updated)  
<https://hawaiicovid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Summary-Guidance-for-COVID-19-Cases-and-Contacts.pdf>
- COVID-19 Resources in Various Languages  
[Translations - Hawai'i DOH: Info & Resources for Managing COVID-19 \(hawaiicovid19.com\)](#)